

ELKO INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

News Release

RELEASE DATE: August 25, 2006

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS BEGIN AUGUST 31, 2006 FOR NORTHERN AND CENTRAL NEVADA

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Elko Field Offices; the US Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest's Mountain City, Jarbidge, and Ruby Mountains Ranger Districts; the US Fish & Wildlife Service Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Eastern Nevada Agency and Shoshone-Paiute Duck Valley Tribe within the Humboldt, Pershing, Lander, Eureka, Elko, Esmeralda, and Nye County Fire Protection Districts and portions of Washoe, Lyon, Churchill, and White Pine Counties, announce the implementation of fire restrictions at **12:01 a.m. on Thursday, August 31, 2006**, and lasting until further notice.

2006 has been an extremely active fire season in Northeastern Nevada. Several large fires this year have been human caused. Two consecutive wet winters have produced a large crop of grass and brush at lower elevations, which could become extremely dangerous if they catch fire.

Motorists are advised to be careful when driving off-road, because hot exhaust systems can ignite dry grasses. The potential for another devastating fire during the summer is very real. To report fires, dial 911.

Fire restrictions apply as follows:

BLM – To all areas, roads and trails on BLM Elko Field Office lands except in BLM developed recreation sites, or in constructed steel fire rings and grates, or in accordance with a valid campfire permit in possession

Forest Service – To all areas, roads and trails outside of the developed recreation sites on the Mountain City, Jarbidge, and Ruby Mountains Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

US Fish & Wildlife Service Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge,

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Eastern Nevada Agency and Shoshone-Paiute Duck Valley Tribe, within the Humboldt, Pershing, Lander, Eureka, Elko, Esmeralda and Nye County Fire Protection Districts and portions of Washoe, Lyon, Churchill, and White Pine Counties.

Fireworks – Use of fireworks is prohibited on public lands.

Fire Restrictions Prohibit:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire except a portable stove using gas or pressurized liquid fuel, outside of a developed fee campground or picnic area (except by permit).
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or at a developed campground or picnic area.
3. Welding, or operating an acetylene torch with open flames, except by permit.
4. Using or causing to be used, any explosive, except by permit.
5. Firing a tracer, incendiary device or possessing/using fireworks.
6. Open burning (e.g. weeds, brush and yard debris).

The BLM and Forest Service strongly encourage all visitors to the Public Lands and Forest Service Lands to carry a shovel, one-to-five gallons of water, and a fire extinguisher. They also recommend avoiding cross-country travel whenever possible to prevent grass from igniting from hot exhaust systems. All agencies recommend that individuals carry cell phones while in the wildlands or national forests, while reminding visitors that coverage can be spotty in some areas.

Exemptions from this order:

1. Persons with a valid permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. (NDF-specific) Owners of undeveloped private property or using the property with the property owner's permission for the purpose of recreation so long as the use does not create a threat to surrounding property.
4. Portable stoves using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel.
5. Developed recreation sites.

As fire season continues the BLM, Forest Service and NDF will be aggressively citing those who do not comply with the posted restrictions and those who use or possess fireworks. Violation of these prohibitions is subject to punishment by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months or both, as Class B Misdemeanors under federal law (agency statutes vary). Persons may also be responsible for resource damage, suppression costs, and any injuries that occur if they are found liable for causing a wildfire.

Other areas currently enforcing fire restrictions include the BLM's Battle Mountain, Winnemucca, Carson City, and Las Vegas Field Offices and contiguous Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

BLM's Ely District, Eagle Lake District (Susanville, California and adjacent NW Nevada) and Surprise District (Cedarville, California and adjacent NW Nevada) and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Ely Ranger District are not currently in fire restrictions.

For more information on fire restrictions, please contact either:

BLM-Nevada, Winnemucca Field Office at (775) 623-1500, the Battle Mountain Field Office at (775) 635-4000, or the Tonopah Field Station at (775) 482-7800, or the Elko Field Office at (775) 753-0200; or USFS-Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Forest Supervisor's Office at (775) 331-6444, or Mountain City Ranger District (775) 738-5171, Jarbidge Ranger District (775) 752-3357, or Ruby Mountains Ranger District (775) 752-3357; or Nevada Division of Forestry-State Office (775)

684-2512, or Northern Division at (775) 738-3454; US Fish & Wildlife Service Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge (775) 779-2237.

Helpful web sites:

<http://www.fire.blm.gov/restrictions.htm>, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/>, <http://www.forestry.state.nv.us/>,
and www.nifc.gov, <http://gacc.nifc.gov/wgbc/>.

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